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Indications of Political Instability in Key Countries

October 1983

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Iraq	
The economy is deteriorating rapidly as a result of falling oil revenues, import cuts, and food and energy shortages. Comment	protests, and most Iraqi Arabs still seem to support the regime. We do not believe the population could tolerate the hardships resulting from a total cutoff of the country's oil exports, however.
Baghdad's economy is already in desperate shape. Oil revenues for 1983 are projected to reach only \$7 billion, as compared with \$9 billion in 1982 and \$25 billion in 1981. During the past year Baghdad has been increasingly unable to procure foreign loans, imports have been cut drastically, shortages of fresh food have begun to develop, and long lines to buy gasoline are a regular scene. So far the Iraqi people have been able to accommodate inconveniences. We find it impossible to determine whether such incon- viences and shortages are perceived as serious hard- ship by Iraqis. We have seen no signs of public	





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	 Demonstrations protesting economic shortages. 	
	Baghdad's inability to borrow further from abroad.	
Key Indicators To Watch	A new drop in oil revenues.	

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